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CONSERVATION COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES July 15 Room 209, City Hall

The Commission's Committee to develop a management plan will meet with or without a quorum.

Meeting began about 6:30 p.m. with S. Lunin and J. Hepburn, and staff Anne Phelps present. We need to verify latest date for revisions to the Management Plan – it should be dated December 7, 2009. We need an Excel file for invasives (so we can revise as necessary); check to see if we have that, or only a pdf.

DEVELOPMENT OF A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR CONSERVATION AREAS

1. Consolidate what we have
A packet was sent out with the following:
 - a) Management Plan revised 12-7-2009
 - b) Newton Conservation Commission Management Plan Action Items, 1-11-2010
 - c) Newton Conservation Commission rules & Regulations for all conservation areas, approved 9-26-2002
 - d) Signage for Deer Park (where visitors are not permitted)
 - e) Signage for conservation area boundary (respect privacy of residential neighbors)
 - f) Minutes (by Susan from CC special meeting on 6-16-2010)
 - g) Doug's Management Plan for conservation Areas Draft 1-27-10 (outline)
Meeting: Sr. Planner had suggestions for expansion on concepts – still needs to be integrated with the “main document” we have developed so far
 - h) Doug's Outline for Invasive Species Policy Draft 1-17-10 (outline)
 - i) City of Newton Integrated Pest Management Policy for Control of Poison Ivy
Meeting: Sr. Planner does not agree this is a suitable policy for conservation areas
 - j) Three main phases: Cons. Management Planning (Judy?)
2. Indicate what is still needed
Meeting: Need individual Maintenance Plans for each conservation area. Judy has document for Hunnewell Woods for review by all.

Dog Parks:

There was some discussion of using conservation areas as dog parks, with a general conclusion that conservation areas are not appropriate or suitable for dog parks. There is also agreement that the Management Plan should be independent of any one conservation area. Also, if a conservation area is used as a dog park, it should not be run by Parks and Recreation. Conservation might consider giving up a conservation area for use as a dog park, to be run by Parks and Recreation if Parks and Recreation wanted to “trade” a suitable parcel to conservation in exchange.

Meeting adjourned approximately 8:30 p.m.

Anne Phelps, Sr. Environmental Planner

Conserva\agmin\min7-15-10 special meet